

# EAST MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

*Meridian, Mississippi*



**Client:** East Mississippi Correctional Facility Authority, Mississippi Department of Corrections

**Location:** Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi

**Contract Duration:** Contract award: 09/22/97. Terms: Five years initially beginning April 1999. Contract renegotiated in August 2002 for a period of two years to provide for a 250-bed increase. Extended to 06/30/04. Additional extensions to 09/01/04 and 01/15/05; 01/15/05-03/01/05; 03/01/05-04/15/05; 04/15/05-09/01/05-11/30/05; 02/28/06. 03/31/06, 08/31/06. **Contract renewed:** 08/01/06 for two years with 2 successive one year options expiring 07/31/11.

## **Background**

The GEO Group was selected by the East Mississippi Correctional Facility Authority on behalf of the State to negotiate a contract to design, construct, finance and manage a 500-bed, all cell mental health correctional facility for the purpose of housing a predominately "Special Needs" population. The facility's 500 cells can be readily adapted to accommodate up to 1,000 state inmates. Capacity was increased to 750 beds in August 2002 and was again increased to 875 in October 2004. Current capacity is 1,000.

## **Scope of Work**

The GEO Group served as the prime developer for both the design/build phase and the management/operations phase of the project. The GEO Group's in-house team of correctional design, construction and prison management experts, in conjunction with the Mississippi-based White Construction and Dale & Associates, ensured a timely and efficient delivery of the project.

The mission of the facility is to provide a secure, cost-effective environment capable of accommodating

"Special Needs" inmates in a secure setting that maximizes the opportunity for personal development and positive treatment. The population consists of minimum, medium and maximum security classifications of male inmates who require programs addressing their psychological needs. The GEO Group's Health Services Division provides a planned program of comprehensive health care, alcohol and drug dependency services, group and individual therapy, as well as other institutional health care programs.

## **Facility Description**

The GEO Group maintains design and construction oversight of this project to ensure full compliance with all standards and requirements. A special medical unit is designed consistent with the needs of the population.

The 875 "Special Needs" inmates are maintained in four housing units, each comprised of 126 cells designed for easy transition to double bed occupancy. The overall layout of the facility allows for direct line-of-sight observation, further enhanced by a CCTV system. Facility design allows for cost-effective utilization of security staff and thereby allows for enhanced programmatic activities without significant budgetary implications. A fully equipped kitchen provides meals for inmates and staff. Indoor and outdoor recreation is provided.

## **Accreditation**

This facility was awarded accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in May 2000 with an outstanding score of 100%, re-accredited in April, 2003 with a score of 99.52%, and again in May 2006 with a score of 99.03%.

